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# citizens' bulletin

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Randy Sheinberg

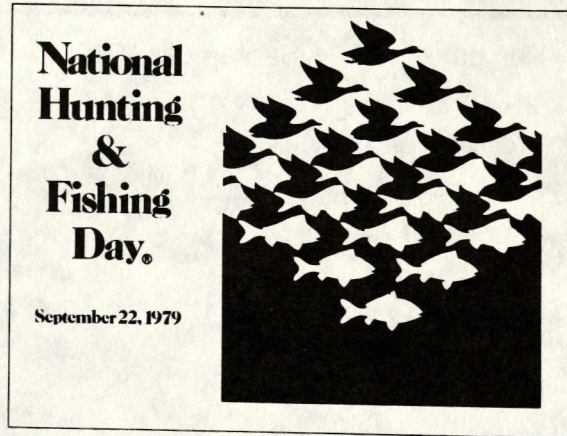
## ***Environmental improvements mean accomplishment, teamwork for youths***

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# Sportsmen Pay \$500 Million a Year for Conservation



Because of the outstanding contributions that hunters and fishermen have made to conservation, more than 40 of the nation's largest conservation groups have joined to sponsor National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday, September 22, 1979.

President Carter has recognized the nation's sportsmen for their conservation accomplishments by saying, "The conservation movement, which now has widespread support throughout American society, was launched about 80 years ago, largely by the nation's hunters and fishermen. The efforts of these dedicated sportsmen have been crucial in promoting the American system of conservation and wildlife management -- now considered among the best in the world."

Here are some of the facts on the Sportsman's role in conservation:

**FACT:** Hunters and fishermen pay nearly \$300 million a year for licenses and permits to hunt and fish. They add over \$81 million more each year through payment of excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition, fishing tackle and archery equipment.

**FACT:** Revenues from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses provide nearly two-thirds of the funding for the 50 state fish and wildlife agencies. This money makes possible the purchase of millions of acres of wildlife habitat and helps pay for research, conservation education, restocking programs and other related activities that help all wildlife -- song birds and chipmunks as well as deer and elk.

**FACT:** Hunters provide an additional \$11 million each year through purchases of duck stamps which

are required for the hunting of waterfowl. Purchases of duck stamps have provided some \$165 million for waterfowl conservation in the last 40 years.

**FACT:** In addition to all the funding mentioned above, hunters and fishermen spend an estimated \$150 million a year to improve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. They also provide a majority of the support for private conservation groups such as the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, Audubon Society and others.

Join with sportsmen in supporting conservation. Several Connecticut sportsmen's clubs usually hold National Hunting & Fishing Day celebrations. Watch your local newspaper's Outdoors column for information on activities in your area.

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# "Valuable" describes YCC

## Outdoor work fosters environmental awareness

By Randy Sheinberg, Massachusetts Audubon Intern

On Friday evening, June 22, 209 neat, well-dressed youths assembled with their parents in Welte Auditorium at Central Connecticut State College. Within one week they would be scattered throughout Connecticut's parks, forests and wildlife management areas doing park maintenance, timber stand improvement and wildlife plot development and, what's more, liking it. For this was the orientation meeting for the members of the 1979 State Youth Conservation Corps.

The YCC was founded in 1970 by the U.S. departments of the Interior and Agriculture, with three goals: to do needed conservation work on publicly owned lands; to provide youths fifteen to eighteen with gainful employment; and to increase enrollees' awareness and appreciation of the environment and our natural resources.

When it first began, YCC was purely a federal program, and all work was done on federal lands. In 1973, the program was expanded to include a state grant policy for work on state-owned land. Connecticut's YCC now works predominantly in State parks and forests. Connecticut receives \$374,000, which is 80 percent of its annual YCC budget, in the form of a federal grant and pays the remaining 20 percent itself. From the force of 84 people who began working in 1974, the program has now expanded to 209 youths in thirteen non-residential mobile teams and two residential camps.

The YCC program in Connecticut lasts eight weeks. Enrollees are paid for six of the eight hours of their days, and the remaining two hours are spent in environmental education. Enrollees work in teams of twelve, six male and six female, with one male and one female counselor. The non-residential teams work in different parts of the State, on a variety of projects. They are picked up daily by a YCC van at designated locations not far from their homes. Camp Tunxis, in Tunxis Forest, East

Hartland, accommodates 32 workers in primitive style camping conditions. Camp Eolia, in Harkness Memorial State Park, Waterford, houses twelve youths dormitory style.

Although the groups work only during the week, all the teams are encouraged to plan at least one weekend recreational trip. In the past these trips have included backpacking, camping, canoeing, and visits to the Sharon Audubon Festival.

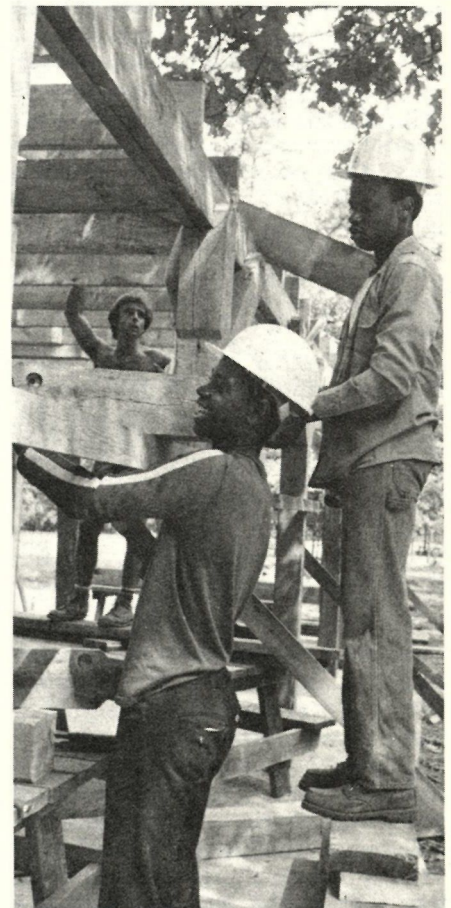
Anybody who has used any of Connecticut's recreational or natural resource facilities has probably seen some of YCC's work. Their projects include work in each of the four areas of the DEP's Division of Conservation and Preservation — Parks and Recreation, Wildlife, Forestry, and Fisheries. Chris Caplice, an enrollee in the 1978 YCC program and a youth leader for the 1979 season said, "Camp Tunxis wasn't here when we began last year. We had to build it ourselves."

The YCC has also helped to improve fishing and waterways by constructing trout rearing ponds and building gabions, structures which prevent shoreline erosion and quicken stream flow to provide better trout habitat. Campers and hikers will be interested to know that the YCC is responsible for constructing and rehabilitating many of the trails in the State parks. In recent years YCC crews have constructed an amphitheatre and boardwalk at Dinosaur State Park, a fishway at Lattimer Brook, a cedar fence at Gillette Castle and a stairway at Fort Shantok. This year's projects include the construction of a boardwalk and interpretive nature trail at Sherwood Island State Park, rehabilitation of the lower foot pathway at historic Fort Griswold State Park, expansion of the youth group camp area in American Legion State Forest and the construction of a picnic shelter at Wharton Brook State Park. Any one mobile team's

projects may range from trail renovation and footbridge construction at Macedonia Brook State Park to crop tree pruning at Nepaug Forest to rebuilding a shelter at Mohawk Mountain State Park.

The Youth Conservation Corps is open to youths aged fifteen to eighteen who are permanent residents of the United States. Selection is on a random, equal opportunity basis, and enrollees are chosen from cities and towns all over the state. With over 1600 applications this year for only 209 positions, competition was keen. YCC hires fifty percent male and fifty percent female youths.

The one word used most often to describe the YCC program by both its participants and others is "valuable." From a public service standpoint, this is certainly an accurate description. Last year alone, the work done by Connecticut YCC enrollees was valued at over \$290,000. In the country as a whole, \$62 million worth of work was done,



Constructing a picnic shelter at Wharton Brook State Park.



yielding a \$2 million profit on the initial investment. In 1978 the YCC constructed 910 miles of trails, maintained another 2400 miles, and planted 8900 acres of trees across the nation. Quality is never sacrificed to quantity, either. All YCC projects are built to last and are tested for durability before the project is deemed completed.

Even more important than the monetary value of the YCC program is its educational and social value. Both counselors and youths are challenged by their work and are allowed to discover their own capabilities. Many of the YCC members begin the summer without ever having had any type of formal work experience. Douglas Melillo, third year YCC counselor, asks his team at their first job which one of them likes to cook. To the enrollee who answers in the affirmative he says, "Good, then you can be in charge of mixing the cement."

The YCC participants learn to appreciate their environment by working with it. They become aware that it will be their responsibility to preserve the resources in the future. In addition to environmental education, the YCC enrollees also experience a valuable social situation. In working on an assignment, all the youths must act together as a team. From this type of work grows a community spirit and a respect for others. Because their work is valuable and important, rather than being mere busywork, the enrollees gain a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. Some of the workers who enjoy their first summer with YCC return to become youth leaders. In several cases YCC has received feedback from schools commending the improvement in participants' behavior.

Jim Gregg, Deputy Director of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of Youth Programs, and YCC State Grant Program Coordinator for New England, told the YCC force of 1979, "You can measure your success by the number of calluses on your hands." As of June 22 they hadn't any calluses. But by the end of the summer they had calluses and experiences, and successes they could be proud of.



## YCC: learning about the environment...

*By Andrea Caouette, 1977 YCC Enrollee, 1978 YCC Youth Leader*

Few summer jobs offer young people the chance to work outdoors and to learn about the environment at the same time. The Youth Conservation Corps provides such an opportunity. Three basic objectives of the YCC program are important to me.

First, YCC allows young people to perform tasks that are usually reserved for adults. My experience with the corps at Camp Eolia, located at Harkness State Park, involved construction of an amphitheatre in the park. Among many other things we learned how to use a transit, how to construct forms, and how to mix cement. Few of my friends the same age who worked at McDonald's or the A&P can boast of such experiences.

Second, by the end of the summer we gained much respect for the environment and the tremendous need for the conservation of our natural resources. Through environmental awareness sessions, preservation and conservation objectives were instilled in us. Towards the end of the summer,

my team visited Gillette Castle. While touring the park we saw a man tossing a soda can on the ground. Promptly one of us retrieved the can and disposed of it in a nearby trash can. At the beginning of the summer I doubt that any of us would have given the soda can a second thought.

Last, but most important, is the fact that we as a group worked so closely as a team. Working side by side and sharing problems and discoveries together helped us to develop strong friendships that are hard to develop in other types of jobs. Our experience at a residential camp added another dimension to our friendships because we were able to spend time together after a hard day's work. Preparing meals and enjoying a game of volleyball after dinner brought us even closer together. By the last day of the program we hated to part and go our separate ways. Yet, we realized that we were lucky to have been able to take part in such a unique program as the Youth Conservation Corps.



## testing team spirit

By Barry Jackson, 1977 YCC Enrollee

I was fortunate enough to be selected as a member of the United States Youth Conservation Corps. YCC was designed to provide the youth of today with a knowledge of his natural surroundings and how it relates to man. The YCC also provides summer employment, money, and a chance to learn and grow with people of your own age from different ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds.

The first project that our YCC team was given was erecting trail markers along a backpacking trail. The signs were to point out items of interest on the path. We also repaired stairs along the side of the trail by cutting pre-creosoted logs to the proper length and then securing them by driving in stakes with a sledge hammer.

After each project, the team got together and discussed the previous job. We talked over problems that were raised and filled out a report on the importance of each project and how it affected the environment. Our findings were then sent to the federal government.

For one of our projects the team did litter pick-up at Indian Wells State Park. In one day, our team collected five tons of garbage, bottles, and cans. I don't think I'll ever litter again.

Another major project was putting a bridle trail where once there was a swamp. The plan was to dig two streams about three feet wide on either side of the swamp which would allow the water to channel off and flow into drainage pipes. After two weeks of digging in knee-deep mud, our bridle trail was completed. Only a soft, dry raised path remained with two streams bubbling along either side. We were happy to see, as we left the site, two horseback riders trying the newly completed trail.

Our last major project was the construction of an osprey nest in the marshes just off Nells Island. A platform would be bolted to the top of a 25-foot telephone pole. It's quite a task to carry an 800-pound pole through knee-deep mud about 200 yards offshore. Then we tied three lines from the top of the pole, with which we hoisted the pole. A five foot hole had been dug in the mud where the telephone pole was to stand. This was our final test of just how much team spirit we had. To hoist that pole up, and to keep it from falling the other way or on top of someone, took every bit of strength we had.

Besides making lifelong friends and living an experience that I shall never forget, I had a part in developing, protecting and maintaining the natural resources of the United States.



Installing a gabion for erosion control at Wharton Brook.

## getting things done

By Lauren Davenport, 1978 YCC Enrollee, 1979 Youth Leader

My first year of YCC was spent in Camp Meshomasic in the Meshomasic State Forest. The first day at camp was a nervous one, but from then on it was all positive. Everyone seemed to get along perfectly. We couldn't believe that we had been picked by a computer. All of us were willing to learn whenever a speaker came to talk; we worked well together and did everything as a group. Our group realized that, in order to get the jobs done and live together comfortably for eight weeks, cooperation was essential. YCC was a real challenge to the total character of everyone in our camp.

In the first week most of us thought, "more school!" as our counselors told us about the "E.A." (environmental awareness) we would be getting. But it was an unusual kind of education. We learned by doing and seeing rather than from books. One of the most important things we learned was that man was responsible for the preservation of the wilderness and park areas. Everyone plays a part in the environment.

The feeling of accomplishment after finishing our first big project was unbelievable. We had built a cirque at Rocky Hill's Dinosaur State Park that we thought would never get finished. The people our group worked with were great, and just knowing that we weren't going to be working with them anymore made us sad. Everyone at the Park taught us so much about the environment and the different ways to use tools that we weren't familiar with.

This year I am working as a youth leader on a mobile team in the YCC program. It's much different than a residential camp, but the kids are great. They too are getting the kind of experiences that might only come once in a lifetime, such as working and accomplishing things as a group. YCC teaches kids something that is hard to explain, but I think that the saying, "Hard work, good times," sums it up for me. I love YCC and hope many more kids get a chance to have the experience I have had.



# NUMBERING BIRDS & BEASTS

By George E. Brys, DEP Wildlife Biologist

Keeping tabs on Connecticut's wildlife resources is one of the responsibilities of the Wildlife Unit of the DEP. The ups and downs of several species are routinely charted by the Wildlife Unit's biologists. Information about the short-term fluctuations and long-term trends in the numbers of our wild neighbors assists wildlife managers in decisions important to the well-being of our wildlife populations.

One of the techniques used by wildlife biologists to accomplish the monitoring task is censusing. The term "census" means to make a complete count or tally over a specified area at a specified point in time. The census of the human population of the United States conducted at ten year intervals by the federal government is a classic example of this technique. Conducting a similar tally of several types of wildlife over an area the size of the state of Connecticut annually is not feasible. Thus, alternatives to this census method have been devised which are practical and cost effective and yield the desired information. Termed a "census index," the alternative technique is defined as a count or ratio which is relative in some sense to the total numbers of animals in a specified population.

Very likely the methods used to obtain such census indices, although common knowledge to wildlife professionals, are unknown to the average citizen. Did you know, for example, that monitoring the size and species composition of Connecticut's wintering waterfowl population involves spending a good part of a January day in a small airplane flying two hundred to three hundred feet above the shoreline from Stonington to Greenwich and along the Connecticut River from Old Saybrook to Enfield, all the while identifying and estimating the numbers of flying, swimming, and resting waterfowl below? Such work requires keen eyes, resistance to motion sickness, and lots of experience with waterfowl. This census has been done annually since 1948 in cooperation with the United



Leonard Lee Rue III photos male woodduck

States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which uses the data in managing the Atlantic Flyway waterfowl population.

The technique used to census Connecticut's white-tailed deer population also involves aircraft. Deer, being highly visible from the air through the leafless deciduous forest and against the white background of a snow-covered winter landscape, are easily observed from a small helicopter flying slowly at low altitude. Using this method, counts are made of deer observed on each of eighty, one-half square mile sample plots randomly selected throughout Connecticut's four thousand square miles of deer habitat. Plot locations are marked on a Connecticut highway map, while exact plot boundaries are delineated on aerial photographs using landmarks easily recognized from the air.

Flying during favorable snow and weather conditions in January or February, a biologist and pilot, using map and photos, locate each plot on the ground. The helicopter then sweeps back and forth across the

census area, the pilot maintaining proper heading, treetop altitude, and precariously slow air speed as the biologist looks for and counts deer.

On its completion, the census data is extrapolated to yield an estimate of Connecticut's wintering deer population. Because of the high cost involved, this census is not conducted annually. To justify the need for and to document the effects of implementing important changes in Connecticut's deer management policies, this census has been done in 1974, 1975, and 1978. Future censuses will be done as necessary.

Another waterfowl census directed at assessing the reproductive success of Connecticut's nesting waterfowl population, is the annual waterfowl brood count conducted by Wildlife Unit personnel in early July. On selected inland waterbodies and river systems, biologists, observing from a quietly paddled canoe or concealed shore position, identify and count the numbers of young ducks and geese seen during the early morning hours.



By observing the same areas year to year at the same time of day and year under favorable weather conditions, a relative index of reproductive success for nesting black ducks, wood ducks, mallards, and Canada geese is obtained. Records from this census are available from 1968 to the present.

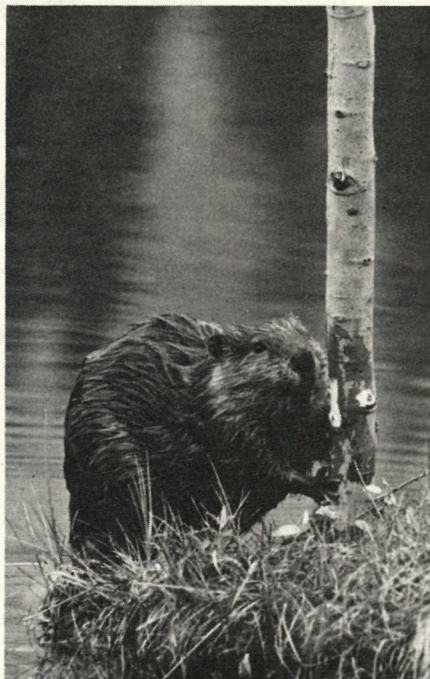
The techniques described above entail counting individual animals to arrive at meaningful census indices. Wintering bald eagles and nesting ospreys are also counted in this manner; however, Wildlife Unit biologists census other species of wildlife using different approaches.

Two avian wildlife species, the bobwhite quail and the American woodcock, are censused by "auditory index," a technique using a species' unique call. As part of their courtship rituals the males of each of these species emit a characteristic call, a whistled "bob-white" by the quail and a grunted "peent" by the woodcock.

Conducting the annual whistling quail count in early July, a biologist drives along established highway routes during the morning and early afternoon hours stopping his vehicle every three-tenths of a mile to listen for a five-minute period. The number of whistling quail heard at each stop is recorded. Standardization of routes, times, and weather conditions allows comparisons of yearly figures, recorded since 1946, and provides a relative index of quail abundance in Connecticut.

Very similar to the whistling quail count is the annual woodcock singing ground survey. This census, conducted in Connecticut by Wildlife Unit biologists during a two-week period in late April and early May, is done throughout the woodcock's breeding range in the United States under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To conduct the census, eleven randomly chosen highway routes, each 3.6 miles in length, have been established in our State.

A biologist is assigned to drive along each of these routes stopping at four-tenths of a mile intervals to listen for two minutes, counting the number of "peenting" woodcock



beaver cutting down tree

heard at each of the ten stops on the route. Each route must be driven within a thirty minute span timed to coincide with the peak daily period of courting activity, beginning a certain number of minutes after sundown and varying with cloud cover. Peenting activity normally begins at twilight and ceases with the fall of darkness. However, under bright moonlight the birds will continue their calling on into the night.

High winds, rain, excessive noise disturbance, or failure to meet the time restraints negates a count and necessitates a rerun. The data collected is forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Migratory Bird Management in Laurel, Maryland, where it is used to monitor the woodcock's breeding status, to set hunting seasons and bag limits, and to make other decisions regarding the management of the species.

Counting individual animals observed or the numbers of courting males heard calling are census methods not applicable to some forms of wildlife. Beavers, being neither readily observable because of their nocturnal habits nor particularly vocal animals, require another approach to the censusing task. Fortunately, their engineering and feeding activities leave unmistakable physical evidence of the presence of an active beaver colony.

By requesting DEP conservation officers, biologists, and other knowledgeable personnel to pinpoint on highway maps in each of the DEP regional headquarters offices beaver colonies observed while afield during the period of March 15 through May 15, the Wildlife Unit gets an indication of the abundance and distribution of beavers throughout Connecticut. Beaver colony counts have been conducted here since 1955.

Gray squirrels, like beavers, are censused by an indirect approach. Did you know that gray squirrels have a habit of building leaf nests high in the tree branches during the late summer and early fall? They do, and counting the numbers of these leaf nests observed along 630 miles of Connecticut's highways gives wildlife biologists a pretty fair idea of gray squirrel abundance in our state. Every third year, in late fall, a driver and two observers travelling in a slow-moving (not exceeding 35 mph) vehicle crisscrosses the state on predetermined routes counting squirrel leaf nests spotted within 200 feet of each roadside. Totals of nests located per age class and forest type have been recorded since 1947.

Over the years the abundance and distribution of wildlife censused using the techniques described herein have changed and so have the quantity and quality of Connecticut's wildlife habitat. Too often the census records reflect a decline in habitat quality and/or quantity resulting from man's thoughtlessness or neglect of the environment. Keeping tabs on Connecticut's wildlife is a Wildlife Unit responsibility. Restoring and maintaining a healthy environment for wildlife is a responsibility we all share.



male bobwhite quail



# Nature Notes

by Penni Sharp

## Shorebirds Head South

Shorebirds belong to the avian order Charadriiformes which additionally includes gulls and auks. The shorebirds as a group comprise of twelve families among which are oystercatchers (Haematopodidae), plovers (Charadriidae), sandpipers (Scolopacidae), stilts (Recurvirostridae), and phalaropes (Phalaropodidae).

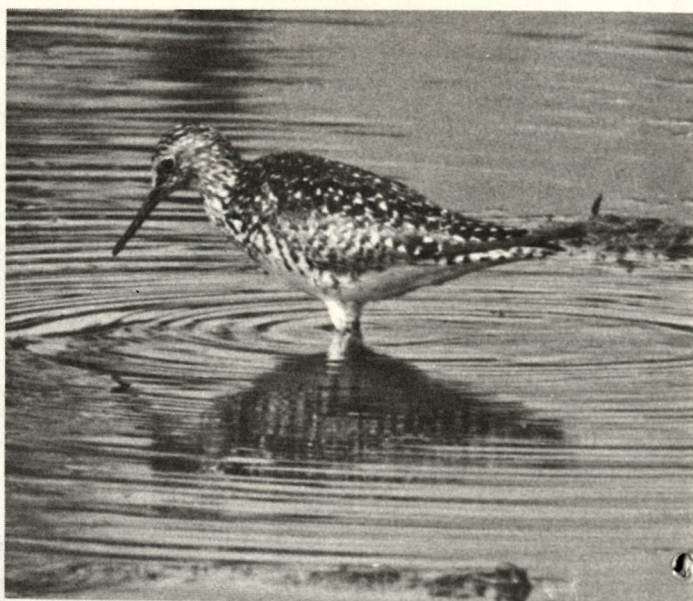
Certain characteristics are common to the birds of this order. Only occasionally will a shorebird be brightly colored. For the most part, white, black, and shades of browns and grays predominate. Very often, males and females look alike. Distinct sexual differences occur in only a few species such as the ruff and the phalaropes.

Shorebirds breed once a year, and clutch size normally ranges from one to four eggs. While a few species of shorebirds breed along the Atlantic coast, including the Connecticut shore, many migrate long distances from their southern wintering grounds to the northern tundra to mate and rear their young. The young are precocial, meaning that they are covered with down upon hatching and are able to leave the nest. Some do so immediately while others remain close by to be tended by their parents until they are fledged. Normally, both male and female care for their offspring. However, there are exceptions, and Women's Liberation is not new to the phalaropes -- the male incubates the eggs and rears the young!

As the collective name implies, shorebirds are primarily coastal inhabitants frequenting beaches, rocky shores, tidal mudflats, and marshes. With the exception of the Neotropical seedsnipe, shorebirds are animal consumers and feed upon insects and marine invertebrates.

The fall migration begins during August and continues into October. At this time of year, shorebirds leave the breeding territory to return to their winter grounds and can be viewed in many places along the Connecticut coast as they stop in along their way to feed. Milford Point is a particularly consistent location for good birding, and Hammonasset State Park provides good opportunities also. Shorebird viewing can be outstanding after a coastal storm. Offshore migrant birds may be blown inland to the coast or may sense the storm coming and put in to weather it out. Such a time can be opportune for seeking the occasional rarity that visits our shores.

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lesser yellow legs  
Leonard Lee Rue III photos

"Shorebirding" has both rewards and frustrations! Among the rewards is the fact that during spring and fall migrations, one can be almost guaranteed of seeing birds when visiting a known stopping ground. Frustrating, particularly for the occasional birder, is the fact that shorebird species such as the different sandpipers can be difficult to distinguish from one another. This, in turn, is complicated by the varying plumages that the migrating birds display. Immediately prior to breeding, the shorebirds are their handsomest, turned out in full breeding plumage. A molt follows, and the birds seen during the fall migration may be in different stages of their post-nuptial molt. The bird observed on its way north may bear little resemblance to the same bird on its return trip. This makes shorebirding both interesting and challenging.

Watching shorebirds is a continual delight. Each family and sub-family has its own behavioral traits, and continued observation of the birds leads to recognition of species by their habits.

Sandpipers, for instance, congregate in large, loose flocks. In flight, they appear totally synchronized. They fly with steady wingbeats and change direction in perfect unison. There is no apparent leader to their flocks, and what causes them to respond at the same instant remains a mystery.

The plovers, plump birds with short, stout bills, run along the beach at water's edge searching for minute crustaceans, beach fleas, and other invertebrates as the waves recede.

Those who plan a birding visit to the Connecticut coast in September or October are certain to see a number of different species. Some of the more common visitors to our shores will be briefly described.

### Plovers

Black-bellied Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)  
10" - 13" (25-33 cm).

This handsome bird is easily recognized in breeding plumage by its black breast and whitish-gray back.



During winter, the birds are mostly gray with white underneath. The black-bellied plover is larger than the birds with which it usually associates and can thus be easily distinguished. The black-bellied plover has a black patch under each wing which is visible when the bird flies and is the most reliable field mark. It also has a white rump patch and these two markings separate the black-bellied from its only possible look-alike, the golden plover (*Pluvialis dominica*). The golden plover is a rare visitor to Connecticut as it normally migrates directly from Nova Scotia to South America in the fall. It is similar to the black-bellied plover, but is slightly smaller and is brown-backed.

Semi-palmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)  
6" - 8" (15-20 cm).

The semi-palmated plover is a small, plump bird with a dark brown unstreaked back, white underparts, and a conspicuous black collar ringing its chest. It has a stubby orange bill that is tipped with black. "Semi-palmated" refers to the plover's feet and means that they are partially webbed.

Like many of the plovers, the semipalmateds run along the beach dodging the waves and seeking food. They will run a short distance, stop abruptly, look up, and then continue as before. They are handsome birds and enjoyable to watch.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)  
6" - 7" (15-17 cm).

Slightly smaller than the semi-palmated plover, the piping plover is a pale whitish bird that is perfectly camouflaged against its accustomed habitat, the beach. The piping plover also has a black collar which may or may not form a complete ring around its neck. It has a yellowish bill which darkens in the fall.

Piping plovers breed along the Atlantic coast. They lay four buff-white eggs that are marked with dark spots. A depression in the sand lined with pebbles constitutes the nest. The exposed nests are very vulnerable, and many are inadvertently destroyed. The

piping plover competes directly with man for beach front habitat, thus many former nesting sites have been lost due to development pressures along the coast. The piping plover arrives early in the spring and leaves the Connecticut area at the beginning of the fall migration.

## Sandpipers

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)  
7" - 8½" (17-21 cm)

In breeding plumage, the sanderling is buff colored to rusty around the head and chest, brownish on the back, and white beneath. During fall and winter, the rusty areas are pale gray, and the sanderling takes on a bleached look which has earned it the nickname "whitey." Its bill and legs are black throughout the year, and in flight the sanderling displays flashing white wing stripes.

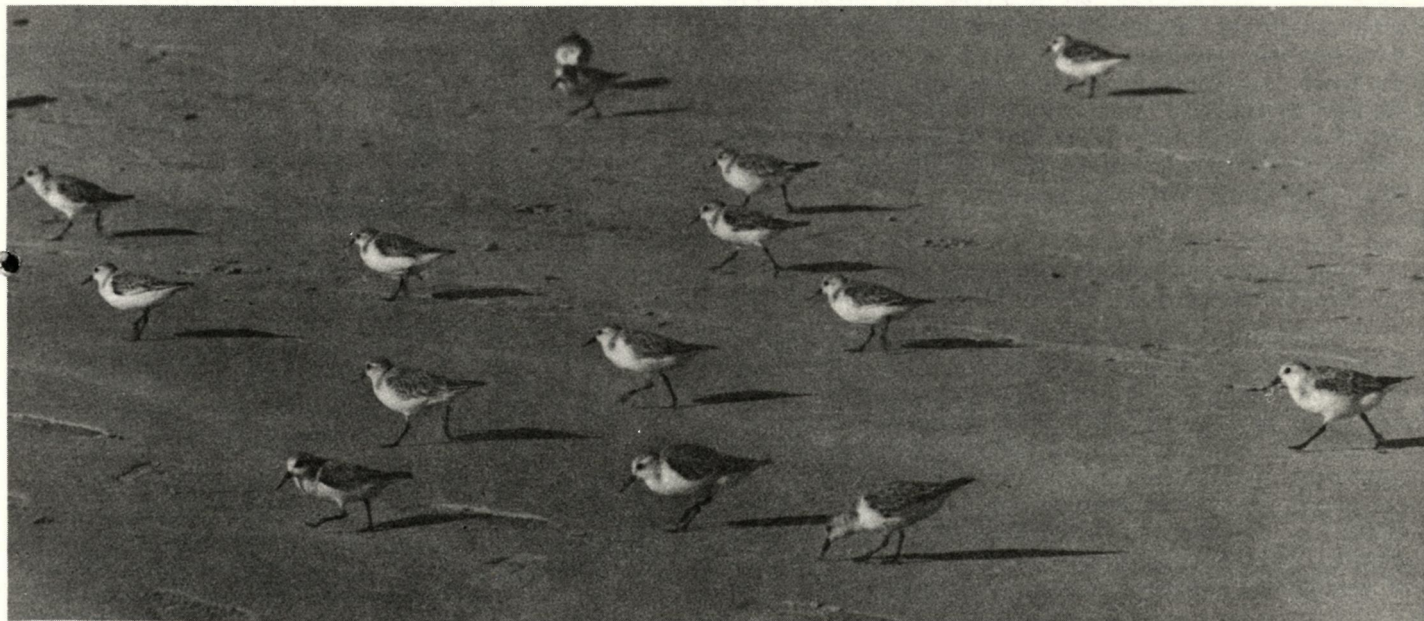
Sanderlings can be seen in Connecticut well into winter. They are common along our shores and are usually observed in loose flocks. Their antics on the beach as they chase the waves sometimes give sanderlings the appearance of mechanical toys.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)  
10½" (26 cm)

As its name indicates, the lesser yellowlegs is distinguished by its long, bright yellow legs. It is a relatively large, gray-streaked bird and in flight shows a whitish rump and tail. The lesser yellowlegs is easily mistaken for its close relative the greater yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). The lesser is smaller with a more slender bill. The best way to distinguish these two species, if they are not seen side by side for easy comparison, is to learn their calls. The greater is a noisy bird with a three or four syllabled whistle. The call of the lesser is more subdued and consists of two notes. Both species have the habit of bobbing up and down at the approach of an intruder. As they take flight, the birds emit their whistled calls.

The lesser yellowlegs wades in the water in search of food and is most often observed in salt marshes or tidal mudflats.

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# Wastewater Treatment Alternatives Expanded

By Randy May, Senior Sanitary Engineer, Water Compliance Unit

When Connecticut's Clean Water Act was passed in 1967, the need for action to clean up sewage pollution was obvious, and the methods used were not subject to great debate. Certain goals were set by the Water Resources Commission and later the Department of Environmental Protection's Water Compliance Unit. These goals were to upgrade primary sewage treatment plants to a minimum level of secondary treatment and to provide collection and treatment to developed areas badly in need of central systems. Connecticut can be proud of the work that has been done with sewage treatment plants which, combined with an effective industrial pollution control program, has resulted in a marked improvement in our waters.

By the middle '70s, however, difficulties in the municipal water pollution control program began to be apparent. The DEP discovered many rural and suburban towns with considerable numbers of failing septic systems. Such failures were widespread and extensive enough to make individual correction by the town health officer difficult. In these cases DEP would issue an abatement order to the town, requiring community action. In all too many cases, however, the only solution proposed for the town was a centralized collection and treatment system. Many citizens became extremely concerned with these proposed solutions because of costs, growth impact, and surface water quality.

In 1977, the citizens' concern found expression in Public Act 77-31 which required the Commissioner to report to the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on the Environment on the establishment of a voluntary sewer avoidance program. This legislation was most timely for several reasons. The demand for funds to build the most needed and least controversial sewerage facilities far outweighs available federal, state and local funds. In recent years the technology of small wastewater treatment systems has improved, and the ability of state and private engineers to assess small scale alternatives has been upgraded. The period of preparation of the Sewer Avoidance Program dovetailed nicely with the passage of the 1977 Amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. These amendments allow greater funding flexibility, increasing the feasibility of on-site or small community treatment systems.

## WHAT IS THE SEWER AVOIDANCE PROGRAM?

Connecticut's Voluntary Sewer Avoidance Program is not anti-sewer or anti-development. The DEP recognizes that many of our communities' wastewater needs can only be met by centralized collection-treatment systems. In addition, many of our sewerage systems and treatment plants need renovation and upgrading. In examining alternative systems the DEP has laid great stress on planning to accommodate needed housing growth. Particular care was taken to facilitate the use of community sewerage systems serving clustered hous-

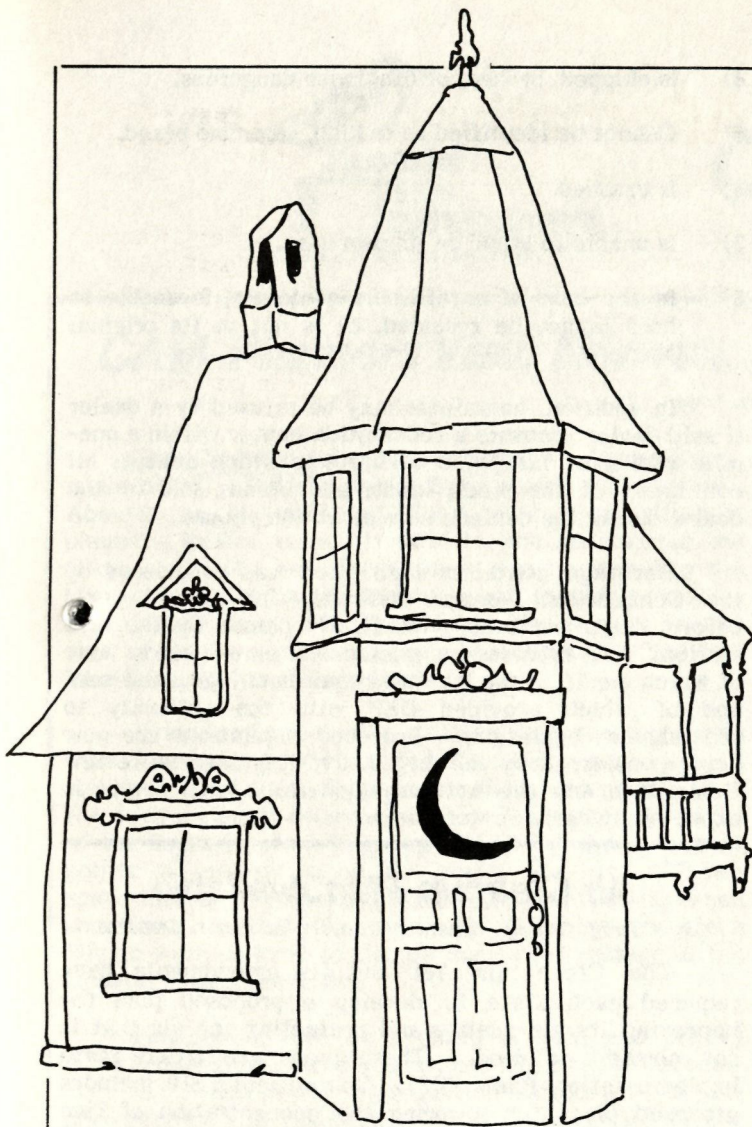
ing or commercial development. The Sewer Avoidance Report contains a full discussion of the past technical and administrative difficulties which have plagued this development concept.

The Sewer Avoidance Report can be broken into two fairly distinct segments applicable to different towns or portions of towns:

(1) Towns with demonstrable pollution problems, normally caused by failures of considerable numbers of septic tank leachfield systems, will continue to receive orders to abate pollution under Section 25-54g of the Connecticut General Statutes. Such an order sets a schedule of action and makes the town eligible for federal/state grants. The grants will ordinarily pay for preliminary engineering study and reports on alternatives as well as for design and construction of needed facilities. The order does not normally mandate a conventional sewerage system as a solution. The sewer avoidance report is DEP's assurance that all reasonable alternative methods of sewage disposal will be seriously considered in resolving a community's pollution problem. The DEP commitment is reinforced by federal grants regulations and statutes covering what is commonly







known as the "201" program. At this time, roughly twenty-four Connecticut towns are working on or have completed engineering reports calling for alternative sewage disposal systems to correct pollution problems.

(2) Towns which do not as yet have demonstrable problems present the Department with a different set of difficulties. Most of these towns are suburban or quite rural, have small staffs, and can provide little detailed planning to meet wastewater disposal needs. There is often little coordination among town programs affecting wastewater disposal. Faced with continuing growth, many of these towns will almost inevitably find themselves in difficulty if appropriate action does not take place now. The bulk of the sewer avoidance report and the subsequent legislative action contained in Public Act 78-154 is intended to help these towns. The Sewer Avoidance Program calls for the towns' Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to prepare a water pollution control plan for the town and recommends three basic tasks. The three basic tasks are the following:

*The first task is identifying existing problems and getting them corrected. Correction may be through health department orders, town-assisted funding involving the WPCA, or by seeking a State order for problems of some magnitude.*

*The second task is considering the needed growth and the natural resource limitations on the chosen methods of sewage disposal. This planning effort culminates in a mapping showing areas where individual on-site systems are desirable, areas where community/cluster systems are preferred, and areas where sewers are or are not needed. This wastewater disposal plan is available for guidance to land use decision makers, which may include the WPCA itself.*

*The third task is a detailed management study of the various town agencies where decisions impact on sewage disposal. Such agencies are the Health Department, Engineering Department, Building Inspector, Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation and Wetlands Commission, and the Taxing Authority. The management study should consider these individual town agencies' practices and policies and the interrelationship of each. Action by the town on the management study is the keystone to correcting and preventing problems. A simple, concrete example would be that few towns can afford to continue to utilize part-time understaffed health departments to enforce the public health code. The need in most towns is for full-time sanitarians and engineers enforcing the health code as part of a sound overall wastewater management program for the town.*

The Sewer Avoidance Program recommended limited modifications to portions of chapters 7 and 25 of the Connecticut General Statutes which were incorporated via Public Act 78-154. These sections renamed the sewer authority and assigned the planning function and administrative control of community systems to that agency as a Water Pollution Control Authority. Subsequent to passage of the act, the Areawide Waste Treatment Management Planning Board (208 Agency) decided to make money available through the Regional Planning Agencies to assist interested towns in preparing the water pollution control plans envisioned in the Sewer Avoidance Program. At this time 35 towns are participating in the 208-funded program.

The Department would like to stress the need for all Connecticut towns to work toward the goal of proper wastewater treatment, management, and disposal. The Voluntary Sewer Avoidance Program could provide many towns with a viable avenue for action in dealing with wastewater pollution. Town officials who are not participating in a structured 201 or 208 program would do well to read the Sewer Avoidance Program Report and implement what they can, even though it may be done on an informal basis. Benefits derived from an effective Sewer Avoidance Program will result in improved public health, cleaner water, and lower costs to the participating towns as well as better implementation of planned community development patterns.

Further information about the Sewer Avoidance Program may be obtained from Randy May (Water Compliance Unit, DEP) or Mark Possidento (208 Program, 209 Court Street, Middletown).



# For Your Information



By Martina Delaney

## New Deposit Law Should Conserve Resources and Lessen Litter

The long-awaited beverage container deposit and redemption law, which will take effect January 1, 1980, will require a five cent minimum refund value on beer and soda containers sold in the State. It also prohibits the sale of cans with detachable tab openings.

Under the terms of the new law, Connecticut will conserve vast amounts of natural resources. Communities will save on the cost of waste disposal and, probably most significantly, conserve extremely limited landfill areas. Volume reduction is a vital part of all sound waste management plans.

What effect will this law have on you, the individual citizen/taxpayer/consumer? And what effect will it have on our throw-away economy?

The law does not require you to return a beverage container to a dealer or redemption center, but it penalizes the consumer who discards one through the loss of the amount of the deposit. Although considerable public education may be required, it is hoped that within a brief transition period the vast majority of containers will be returned for redemption.

As you prepare for the returnable system, there are certain provisions of the Connecticut law and regulations with which you should be familiar.

No dealer may refuse to accept or pay the refund value for any beverage container if he sells that kind, size, and brand UNLESS the container:

- 1) Has foreign material in it (foreign to the normal contents).
- 2) Is so unsanitary as to present a health hazard.
- 3) Is not properly labeled (i.e., with the amount of the deposit or the words "Return for Refund" or "Return for Deposit" and either the word "Connecticut" or the abbreviation "CT" except that the latter requirement is waived for bottles permanently embossed with the brand name).

- 4) Is chipped, broken, or otherwise dangerous.
- 5) Cannot be identified as to kind, size, and brand.
- 6) Is crushed.
- 7) Is unable to stand on its own base.
- 8) In the case of a refillable container, is unable to hold liquid, be resealed, or is not in its original shape.

In addition, containers may be refused by a dealer if said dealer sponsors a redemption center within a one-mile radius of his place of business which accepts all containers of the sizes, kinds, and brands sold by the dealer during the dealer's normal working hours.

Beverage container legislation was considered by the Connecticut General Assembly for several years before the present law was finally passed by the 1978 session. The 1979 session passed two amendments: one of which modified the labeling requirements and the second of which provided DEP with the authority to promulgate regulations. Proposed regulations are now being considered by the Legislative Regulations Review Committee and the Attorney General. Final action is expected by early September.

## Air Cleanup Plan Available

By Cindy Carey, Massachusetts Audubon Intern

The Clean Air Act and its amendments have required each state to develop a proposed plan for improving its air quality and protecting the air that is not already polluted. These plans are titled State Implementation Plans (SIP). Connecticut's SIP includes proposed plans for lowering the concentration of five pollutants that now have National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The air pollution standards were set to protect the health of the American people and prevent damage to vegetation and property.

The 1970 Amendments to the Clean Air Act targeted 1975 as the year for a first set of clean air standards to be met. Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection prepared its first SIP in 1971 and submitted it for approval to the EPA, which subsequently approved the plan. However, in 1973, Connecticut, along with many other states, was notified that its plan was not adequate to meet requirements for reducing motor vehicle-related pollutants and revisions would be necessary.

The 1977 Amendments to the Clean Air Act set new deadlines for the states to meet the air quality standards and required states to prepare and submit revised State Implementation Plans (SIP) by July 1, 1979. Connecticut submitted its 1979 SIP revision on June 22, 1979, and is presently waiting for approval. There are copies of a summary of the SIP revision available to Connecticut's citizens. Find out more about Connecticut's air and what you can do to help clean it up. Request a copy of the summary by calling 566-2568 or writing to the Department of Environmental Protection, Air Compliance Unit, State Office Building, Hartford, CT 06115.



## CAM Planners View Norwalk Shoreline Aboard "Clearwater"

By David Tedone

The Clearwater, a 106-foot Hudson River Sloop, made a tour of the Norwalk Harbor area this summer. Aboard the old-fashioned sloop were town officials, planners, sailors, environmentalists, and members of the CAM staff. The excursion, which was sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, lasted about five hours and offered us a sailor's view of the Norwalk and Darien shorelines, the Norwalk Islands, and parts of Long Island.

Crew member Dennis O'Leary, an environmental educator, gave a combination lecture/presentation on sailing the big river sloops in the 1800s and on the need for environmental awareness. Dick Carpenter, Director of the South Western Regional Planning Agency, located points of interest along the coast, and city officials spoke briefly on Norwalk's efforts to revitalize its urban shorefront. CAM planners Anne Schuyler and John Wiggin were on hand to discuss the recent passage of the Coastal Management Act.

Founded in 1966 by a group of boat and history buffs led by singer Pete Seeger, the Clearwater Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Hudson River and related waterways. The ship was built entirely with contributions from the association's membership, and the crew boasts that it is about 95 percent historically accurate. Diesel engines and sleeping berths are modern additions. The ship, a full-scale replica of the sloops which were popular work boats in the 1800s, can be rented by schools and various organizations for a day of sailing and environmental education. The Clearwater regularly plies the waters of the Hudson, Harlem, and East Rivers, Long Island Sound, New York Harbor, and the New Jersey Coast. On board, day-sailors may perform a number of basic water quality tests and listen to some ship lore or a lecture on the need to return to "clear water." They may help hoist the tremendous sail or take a turn at the helm -- in any case, they have some fun sailing on a magnificent ship.

On the Norwalk trip, the Clearwater, with its towering 109-foot mast, attracted a lot of attention, and many private boats made a special swing alongside to get a closer look at the historic ship. On our way out of the harbor, we passed a large marina, housing several hundred boats of all types. Dick Carpenter pointed out that this area, replete with restaurant, various marine supply buildings, and piers, is the site of Norwalk's revitalization project. This project to develop the urban shorefront into a historic seaport was partially financed by a \$16,500 grant from the CAM program. The CAM

urban shorefront grant is a part of a much larger program to redevelop downtown South Norwalk.

When it came time to hoist the Clearwater's mainsail, all passengers became crew members and were rallied round the mast. Some forty persons lined up on each side of the boat and pulled taut lengths of thick hemp rope, raising the gaff some ninety feet in the air. Those portside raised a collar round the mainmast known as the throat, while those starboard raised the point. The smaller jib, which is forward of the mast, was hoisted by a solitary crew member. The 4,300 square feet of sail caught the first breeze, ballooned, and ushered us out past the Norwalk Islands and into the central Sound.

The Norwalk Islands remain pretty much in a natural state, with the exception of Manresa Island, which is the site of a power plant, and smaller islands boasting an occasional summer home. Norwalk officials said that both the city and the State have considered purchasing Chimon and Sheffield Islands, the two largest of the Norwalk group, but to date no deal has been struck. Dick Carpenter added that the only underwater transmission line in the Sound comes from the power plant on Manresa Island and runs across the Sound to Long Island. Out along the Connecticut shoreline, we could see a cluster of highrise which marked downtown Stamford, and further out still, as a result of the picture-clear day, we could make out the twin towers of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, some forty miles away.



Everyone lends a hand to help hoist the massive sail of the Clearwater.



The wide-beam sloop tacked several times heading south toward Long Island. But as the wind died and the afternoon slipped into evening, the helmsman brought us about. The order was given to furl the sails, and we headed under diesel power back toward Norwalk Harbor. On the way in there was a discussion of Clearwater membership. Passengers toured the crew's quarters below deck and learned from O-Leary that members of the Clearwater Association (\$15 makes anyone a member) may volunteer for a full week of crew duty. Volunteers, who supplement the fulltime crew, actually learn to work the antique craft and live right on board.

As we approached the shore, thoughts turned to coastal management as Wigin and Schuyler briefly explained the Coastal Management Act. After hearing some details on how CAM will work in Connecticut, one planner commented that he hoped towns would elect to prepare municipal coastal programs for their shorelines. "It would complement the new site plan review requirements," he said. (Municipal coastal programs are at the discretion of the municipality.) A crew member from Poughkeepsie was particularly interested in public participation and she hoped New York would be able to pass its coastal legislation. "We all are, in fact, doing the same thing," O'Leary added, "We share resources, and we share a serious commitment to improvement of the quality of life on, in, and around our waters. That's what Clearwater is all about."



David Tedone

A lone crew-member keeps watch as the Clearwater leaves its dock.

## CAM Legislation Adopted

Governor Ella Grasso put the finishing touch on the Coastal Management Act by signing it into law June 29, 1979. The Coastal Management Act, which had been passed by both Houses of the General Assembly earlier this year by wide margins, will go into effect January 1, 1980. The action comes after two years of legislative effort and four years of planning by the Coastal Area Management (CAM) Program, a unit within the Department of Environmental Protection.

During that time legislators, town officials, citizens, and CAM staff members met repeatedly, examined coastal issues, held public meetings, and reviewed legislative proposals.

The Act, in its broadest sense, is designed to help balance the need for continued economic development with the need to preserve valuable and irreplaceable coastal resources. It establishes a coastal boundary, roughly 1,000 feet inland from mean high water or from a tidal wetland. It is within this boundary that the management system and the newly established coastal goals and policies are meant to apply. The Act directs municipalities to undertake coastal site plan reviews of proposals within the boundary and to evaluate their impact on coastal resources. The State will grant \$2,500 to each municipality for initial start up costs of the review. Additional funding will be available to those towns wishing to do further planning.

Statewide coastal policies for conservation and development are provided in the Act to guide municipal, state, and federal permit decisions on projects affecting the coastal area. The State is also directed to provide technical assistance to towns to help them carry out their responsibilities under the Act.

Drafted to meet federal guidelines, the Coastal Management Act will allow the State to apply for continued federal funding. The State will be providing twenty percent of the cost in matching funds to help coastal communities plan for the wise use of their shorelines.

## Shorebird Watch From p. 9

Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularia)  
7½" (19 cm)

The spotted sandpiper can be found along rocky shores and lake sides and in salt marshes. It is fairly easy to identify in its breeding plumage with its olive-brown back and white breast which is covered with round dark spots. In fall and winter, the spots disappear. The bird is best recognized by its behavior and its flight pattern. It constantly teeters up and down as it walks from place to place. It flies with a strong short wing stroke which alternates with short glides. The wings remain below the horizontal. The "spotty" or "teeter-tail" breeds in the United States, including Connecticut, and is a favorite among American shorebirds.

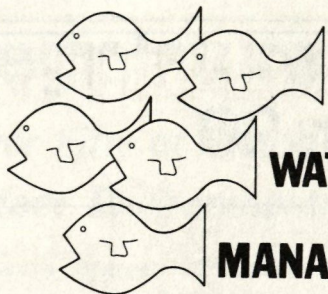
These are but a few of the birds that can be seen from now through October, with some remaining even longer. Armed with a field guide, a pair of binoculars, and plenty of patience, anyone can learn to identify and enjoy these birds. In studying them, look for distinguishing features such as bill and leg color, wing bars, streaked or unstreaked patterns, eye rings, or neck bands. Observe their behavior also. Much pleasure can be derived from learning to know the shorebirds.

### Recommended reading:

Peterson, R.T., A Field Guide to the Birds. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Robbins, et al. Birds of North America, A Guide to Field Identification. Golden Press, New York.





# 208

## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

209 COURT ST., MIDDLETOWN, CT. 06457 347-3700  
By Joseph M. Rinaldi, 208 Public Participation Assistant

### Septage and Sewage Sludge Disposal Will Be Studied

Connecticut municipalities, by and large, have efficient, effective, sewage treatment plants. As these facilities remove pollutants from the wastewaters a concentrated sludge is generated. This sludge is composed of solids which are settled out during the primary and secondary treatment processes as well as material which is not consumed by the micro-organisms that feed on the sewage during secondary treatment.

After a period of time this sewage sludge must be removed from the treatment plant. Sewage sludge disposal generally entails either incineration or land-filling, or, in some communities, both. In any event, care must be exercised in land disposal because the sludge may contain heavy metals or other toxic, inorganic materials which would not be consumed by the biological treatment process. The sludge can also pose health problems because it may contain substantial amounts of viruses.

Similar problems can be encountered in the disposal of septage. Septage is the concentrated material which gradually accumulates in septic tanks. It is removed periodically by a septic tank pumper for disposal. In some instances, the pumper discharges the septage to a municipal sewage treatment plant. Other pumpers utilize designated disposal pits or anaerobic disposal cells.

Unfortunately, little is known about the actual contamination of groundwater in the State caused by the disposal of septage and sewage sludge. Because Connecticut's groundwater resources will play an important role in the future for drinking water supply, it is essential that all potential sources of contamination be thoroughly examined.

The Connecticut 208 Program will conduct a study of present septage and sewage sludge disposal practices to determine their impact on groundwater. An initial inventory will be compiled of all sewage treatment plants to determine sludge volumes, disposal practices, and disposal site locations.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Protection maintains a list of septage disposal sites in its data storage computer program.

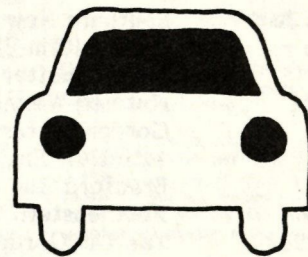
It will also be necessary to project future generation of septage and sewage sludge in order to adequately plan for future facilities. These projections will be made for 1990 and 2000, based on the best available information.

The DEP will sample and analyze the septage that is currently disposed of at the 39 septage disposal sites in the State. This will be necessary to determine the chemical characteristics and solids contents of the material. Monitoring wells will be installed at five of these sites, both upgradient and downgradient of the disposal cell, and will be sampled to determine the impact of septage disposal on the underlying groundwater. These wells will be permanent and can be utilized in the future by State and local agencies, if necessary.

The Connecticut 208 Program will also investigate alternative disposal systems for sewage sludge and septage. These include composting, land spreading, turf farming, give-away programs, land filling, and incineration. The alternatives will be evaluated with respect to technical feasibility, siting constraints, space requirements, costs, and effects on air and water quality.

In an effort to implement the findings of this study the regional planning agencies will contact any of their member towns which have existing or potential septage or sewage sludge disposal problems. The local agencies will then be able to initiate any necessary planning and implementation activities to preclude the development of major water quality problems and resultant State enforcement actions. In addition, the Connecticut 208 Program will produce a detailed manual on the anaerobic septage disposal cell. Many communities are interested in this disposal method because of its relatively low cost. The manual will help to ensure that such a cell is properly sited, designed, and constructed to perform its job efficiently while protecting the quality of nearby groundwater.

### Help Clean Up Connecticut's Air



For information on Connecticut's

### Commuter Carpool Program

call toll-free 1-800-842-1910; in Hartford, call 566-5922.



## Coming Attractions:

# Hunting Season Opens October 20

## Safety Essays Get Awards

Arlen Rossi of Prospect, center, junior winner in the Marlin Firearms Company's hunter safety essay contest, received a \$50 L.L. Bean gift certificate for her essay on the topic, "Is It Enough to Be a Safe Hunter?" Her instructor, Arthur Thayer of Prospect, left, also received a \$50 L.L. Bean gift certificate. DEP Deputy Commissioner Dennis DeCarli, right, presented the awards.

Winner in the senior competition, for hunter safety students in grades nine through twelve, was Michael Brooks of Higganum. He and his instructor, Jeffrey Meehl of Meriden, also received a \$50 gift certificates. Both Connecticut winners' essays were entered in the national competition.

DEP Hunter Safety Coordinator Frank Glista, who serves on the Marlin Essay Contest Advisory Board, recommends an essay on a hunting issue as a part of the hunter safety certification process.

Ms. Rossi's skills aren't only theoretical. She recently competed in Kansas City in the Daisy Air Rifle Competitions, winning and establishing a world's record from a sitting position and making the highest test score of the match.



Randy Sheinberg

## See Hunting Dogs Compete

See some hunting dogs "snuff their stuff" this fall at a cooperative field trial (those for which DEP's Wildlife Unit provides some of the birds).

A current list follows. For additional information and added trials, as well as lists of other field trials for which DEP doesn't supply birds, you can contact Peter Bogue, DEP Wildlife Unit, State Office Building, Hartford 06115 (566-4683).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sept. 29 & 30	Southern New England Brittany	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Oct. 6&7	New Britain Field Trial Club	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Oct. 13	English Setter Club of New England	Torrington Fish & Game Club*
Oct. 13 & 14	Nutmeg Weimaraner Club	Nod Brook Wildlife Mgmt. Area
Oct. 14	Gordon Setter Club	Torrington Fish & Game Club*
Oct. 19-21	44th New England Futurity	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Oct. 21	Branford Gun Club	Gargano Property, North Branford*
Oct. 22-25	Northeastern Championship	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Oct. 27 & 28	Tar Tan Gordon Setter Club	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Oct. 28	Nutmeg German Shorthaired Pointer Club	Gargano Property, North Branford*
Oct. 28	Conn. Amateur Shooting Dog F.T. Assoc.	Mansfield Hollow
Nov. 3 & 4	Conn. Valley Vizsla Club	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Nov. 16-18	Region #1 Amateur All Age Championship	Glastonbury Meadows*
Nov. 17 & 18	Irish Setter Club of Central Conn.	Flaherty Field Trial Area
Nov. 18	Lyme Bird Dog Club	Mansfield Hollow
Nov. 24 & 25	Nutmeg German Shorthaired Pointer Club	Flaherty Field Trial Area

\*Permit required



# Legislature, 1979

## Over Fifty of State's New Laws Affect Environmental Issues

By Laura Inouye, DEP Legislative Liaison

During the 1979 session of the Connecticut General Assembly 734 bills were passed. The Governor subsequently approved 715 of those bills and vetoed 19. During the July 30 Trailer Session one of the vetoes — of HB 7521, AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS — was overridden.

Following are brief summaries of some of the new acts affecting the environment. Copies of these acts may be obtained from the Secretary of State's Office, State Capitol, Rm. 106, Hartford, CT 06115.



### Administration

PA 79-81, HB 5095, AN ACT INCREASING RECORDING FEES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF HUNTING, TRAPPING AND SPORT FISHING LICENSES - effective July 1, 1979  
Increases town clerks' recording fees for hunting, trapping and sport fishing licenses from .35 per license to \$1 per license.

SA 79-23, HB 7540, AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1980 - effective July 1, 1979

This is the state's operating budget for the 1979/80 fiscal year. It appropriates \$13,895,943 to the DEP as follows:

Central Office	\$2,536,531
Division of Conservation & Preservation	8,799,384
Division of Environmental Quality	2,560,028
	<b>\$13,895,943</b>

SA 79-95, HB 1241, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER PURPOSES - sections 1 through 10 effective upon passage, June 12, 1979; sections 11 through 108 effective July 1, 1979  
This act is the 1979/80 capital budget. It authorizes \$6.26 million in bonds to be used by the DEP for the following purposes:

Watershed protection and flood control projects:

Fairview Ave. area of Hamden	\$ 250,000
Pardee Brook, Hamden	500,000
Steel Brook area of Seymour	460,000
Milford	250,000
West Haven	250,000
Storm drainage facilities, Stratford	500,000
Solid Waste Management grants	3,000,000
Silver Sands State park access road	1,000,000
Recreational development at Mad River Flood Control Area, Winchester	50,000
	<b>\$6,260,000</b>

### Staff Services

PA 79-139, SB 1341, AN ACT CONCERNING BEVERAGE CONTAINERS - effective January 1, 1980

Amends the labelling requirements of the "bottle bill" passed by the 1978 legislature to allow use of the words "Return for Deposit" or "Return for Refund" instead of the refund value of the container. Also exempts containers which are permanently embossed from labelling requirements.

PA 79-208, HB 7920, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION PILOT PROGRAM - effective October 1, 1979

Requires the DEP to have one or more appraisals made of property selected by the Commissioner of Agriculture for possible purchase of development rights and to approve appraisals obtained by the landowner.

PA 79-252, HB 5017, AN ACT CONCERNING RETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS - effective upon passage, May 23, 1979

Requires the DEP to adopt regulations to implement sections 22a-77 through 22a-79 of the general statutes (the "Bottle Bill") by October 1, 1979.

PA 79-294, SB 837, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE, LEASE OR ASSIGNMENT OF LAND OWNED BY A WATER COMPANY - effective upon passage, May 23, 1979

Extends the moratorium on the sale of Class II water company land for another year (until June 26, 1980) or until the final adoption of Health Department regulations as required by section 25-37d of the statutes, whichever occurs first.

PA-513, HB 7246, AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION FOR ASSESSMENT CLASSIFICATION OF FARM, FOREST OR OPEN SPACE LAND AND THE TAX ON SALE OF SUCH LAND WITHIN TEN YEARS - effective July 1, 1979, and applicable to the sale of any land classified for the first time as farm, forest or open space land on or after July 1, 1979

Allows landowners 90 days after a revaluation of real property to apply for classification as farmland, forest land or open space land. Open space applications will have to be approved by a majority vote of the municipal legislative body. The act also provides for a graduated conveyance tax to be imposed on land classified as forest land or farmland that is sold within 10 years from the time the landowner acquired the land or from the date of classification, whichever is earlier. A similar conveyance tax is imposed on open space land if sold within 10 years of classification.

PA 79-516, HB 7497, AN ACT CONCERNING COLLECTION OF THE LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING FUND ASSESSMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE SERVICES - effective January 1, 1980

Amends the "Litter Control and Recycling Act" passed in 1978 to require the Commissioner of Revenue Services to collect the litter control and recycling fund assessments and to expand and clarify criteria for assessments.

PA 79-607, SB 1506, AN ACT CONCERNING URBAN ACTION AND ESTABLISHING A STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD - sections 1 through 12 and 14 through 21 effective October 1, 1979; section 13 effective July 1, 1979

Authorizes \$2 million in bond funds to be used by the DEP for grants to towns classified as "economically distressed" or "urban centers." The grants are to be used for "recreation development and solid waste disposal

projects" (section 21 of the Act). Section 6 of the Act amends the distribution formula for federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.

SA 79-68, HB 5099, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF WATER NEEDS OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT - effective July 1, 1979

Establishes a Western Connecticut Water Supply Council to monitor, review, coordinate and supervise any state and federal studies concerning water supplies in western Connecticut.

SA 79-87, HB 6540, AN ACT TO FUND THE 1980 STATEWIDE LOW ALTITUDE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY COVERAGE - effective July 1, 1979

Enabling legislation to allow the use of \$60,000 included in the DEP's operating budget (SA 79-23) for the 1980 Statewide Low Altitude Aerial Photography Survey.

SA 79-94, HB 7694, AN ACT CONCERNING AN AQUIFER ASSESSMENT IN SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT - effective July 1, 1979

Authorizes the DEP to utilize \$67,000 in the DEP's operating budget (SA 79-23) to conduct an aquifer assessment in southwestern Connecticut in cooperation with the Western Connecticut Water Supply Council established by SA 79-68.

### DIVISION OF CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION

#### Fish and Water Life

PA 79-50, SB 1236, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF LIVE FISH EGGS - effective October 1, 1979

Allows the DEP to sell surplus disease-free trout eggs to commercial hatcheries.

PA 79-137, SB 75, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF OTTER TRAWLS - effective October 1, 1979

Prohibits the use of otter trawls from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise in the waters of Long Island Sound between the Stratford shoal light and the easterly breakwater of the Housatonic River in Milford.

PA 79-293, HB 7537, AN ACT CONCERNING ESCALLOP DREDGING, COMMERCIAL FISHING DEFINITIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SHELLFISH COMMISSIONS - sections 1 and 3 effective January 1, 1980; sections 2, 4, and 5 effective October 1, 1979

Section 1 amends the commercial fishing definitions. Section 2 stipulates that commercial fishing licenses and registrations will not be issued to applicants who have not complied with the reporting requirements of section 3 of the act. Section 3 expands reporting requirements. Section 4 allows boroughs, in addition to towns and cities, to establish shellfish commissions. Section 5 repeals section 26-289 of the statutes which allows scallop dredging in parts of Little Narragansett Bay and Stonington Harbor.



PA 79-528, HB 5701, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENACTMENT OF A CONNECTICUT RIVER ATLANTIC SALMON COMPACT - effective upon legislative approval of the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont and the U.S. Congress

Establishes the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, composed of two representatives from each participating state, charged with promotion of the restoration, preservation and protection of the Atlantic Salmon in the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The commission may recommend legislation, stocking programs, management procedures and research projects to participating states and may also promulgate regulations establishing a permit system for salmon fishing in the main stem of the Connecticut River.

#### Forestry

PA 79-281, HB 7295, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF FIREWOOD - effective October 1, 1979

Establishes a definition for a "standard cord" of fuelwood sold by a commercial dealer as "128 cubic feet of compactly piled wood." Requires that commercial dealers sell only standard cords or fractional parts of cords.

#### Law Enforcement

PA 79-125, SB 212, AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR MOLESTING LOBSTER POTS OR STEALING LOBSTERS - effective October 1, 1979

Raises the maximum penalty for disturbing lobster pots or stealing lobsters from \$100 to \$200.

PA 79-166, HB 6424, AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND LITTER LAWS BY TOWN MARINE OFFICERS - effective October 1, 1979

Allows town marine officers to enforce disorderly conduct laws (Section 53a-182 of the Statutes) and litter laws (Section 22a-27d of the Statutes) on waters within the town's jurisdiction or the adjacent shoreline within the town.

#### Parks and Recreation

SA 79-67, HB 5931, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PARK ALONG THE HOCKANUM RIVER IN THE TOWNS OF ELLINGTON, EAST HARTFORD, MANCHESTER AND VERNON - effective July 1, 1979

Requires the DEP to conduct a planning and feasibility study of a linear park along the Hockanum River. The report is to be submitted to the General Assembly by July 1, 1981.

SA 79-86, HB 5556, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT HANCOCK DAM, PLYMOUTH - effective July 1, 1979

Appropriates \$10,000 to the DEP for the development of a picnic area at Hancock Dam in Plymouth.

SA 79-92, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WEST ROCK CONSERVATION AREA SUPPLEMENT - effective July 1, 1979

Authorizes the DEP to purchase additional land to expand the boundaries of West Rock Ridge State Park and requires the DEP to prepare a plan of development for the park within 9 months of the effective date of the Act. A \$15,000 appropriation is included for the development plan.

#### Property Management

PA 79-603, HB 5927, AN ACT CONCERNING LAND TRANSFERS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - effective October 1, 1979

Mandates the DEP to replace forest land, which is sold or exchanged, with land of at least equal market value and reasonably equivalent usefulness.

#### Wildlife

PA 79-354, SB 1291, AN ACT CONCERNING RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES - effective upon passage, May 30, 1979.

Provides exemptions from state statutes regarding rare and endangered species if allowed by federal law or regulation.

PA 79-445, HB 7523, AN ACT CONCERNING DEER DAMAGE PERMITS - effective January 1, 1980

Establishes a new system for issuing permits to hunt deer which are causing crop damage. Crop protection permits presently issued to any landowner of 10 or more acres will be replaced with damage permits and landowner permits (see PA 79-491). Six damage permits will be issued to persons who earn at least \$500 annually in commercial production of crops and who are experiencing actual or potential loss of income because of deer

damage; the permits will be valid for the calendar year and will be replaced upon the DEP's receipt of a report of a deer killed in accordance with the permit provisions. Landowners may designate agents to receive and use damage permits; however, each agent may not be employed by more than one landowner during any calendar year.

PA 79-491, SB 1292, AN ACT CONCERNING DEER MANAGEMENT - effective January 1, 1980

Allows the commissioner of environmental protection greater flexibility in managing the deer resource of Connecticut.

A free landowner permit will be issued to each person who owns 10 or more acres and to each lineal descendant provided the total number of permits issued to each family does not exceed one for the first 10 acres and one for each 20 acres thereafter. The season for landowner permits will run from November 1st to December 31st. Landowners may issue consent forms to other individuals to hunt deer on their land during the firearms deer season and may allow the use of rifles.

The act also deletes the provision that prohibits sports hunters from entering the shotgun permit selection process if they have been issued a shotgun permit the previous year.

#### DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

##### Air Compliance

PA 79-23, HB 7424, AN ACT CONCERNING AN ANNUAL MASTER PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - effective October 1, 1979

Amends the statutes mandating an annual transportation plan to require that the plan consider "federal air quality standards, conservation and cost of energy supplies" and include priorities for public transportation.

PA 79-177, SB 1290, AN ACT CONCERNING AIR COMPLIANCE PERMIT FEES - effective October 1, 1979

Requires the DEP to promulgate regulations calling for air compliance permit fees, as required by the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments. The fees should be based on the costs of reviewing and acting upon permit applications.

PA 79-238, HB 7521, AN ACT CONCERNING MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS - vetoed May 21, 1979 - was reconsidered by the General Assembly in a Special Session in July and Governor Grasso's veto was overridden. The bill is effective upon passage, July 30, 1979

Amends the 1978 Inspection and Maintenance Act (I/M) to:

- 1) require that the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) contract with a private firm to perform the inspections
- 2) allow 30 days (instead of 10) for vehicle owners to have the vehicle repaired should it fail the emissions test
- 3) require the MVD to adopt regulations to implement the I/M program by November 1, 1979
- 4) exempt from inspections new vehicles prior to initial registration in accordance with the Clean Air Act Amendments
- 5) change the commencement dates for mandatory inspections from January 1980 to January 1981 and the date for mandatory inspections and compliance with emissions standards from January 1981 to January 1982
- 6) delete the provision allowing firms with approved inspection lanes to inspect the firms' employees' vehicles free of charge
- 7) raise the ceiling on the inspection fee from \$5 to \$10
- 8) delete the provision for a Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection Fund
- 9) require the DEP to establish minimum exhaust emissions standards by November 1, 1979, and to periodically review the standards and make necessary revisions
- 10) clarify that repair requirements cannot exceed \$70 unless a vehicle's air pollution control device has been "removed, dismantled or is inoperative."

PA 79-544, HB 5392, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUTER PROGRAM - effective July 1, 1979

Requires the Department of Transportation to establish a Commuter, Trip-to-Work Program. The DOT, working in cooperation with the DEP, the Energy Division of OPM, and the Department of Economic Development, shall assist employers who employ or provide parking facilities for 150 or more employees in one location in distributing information on available mass transit, funding sources, and tax incentives. The program shall also provide technical assistance and free computer matching of employees for potential carpool, vanpool and buspool services.

#### Coastal Management/ Water Resources

PA 79-535, HB 7878, AN ACT CONCERNING COASTAL MANAGEMENT - effective January 1, 1980

This act establishes a coastal management program to be implemented largely by municipal planning and zoning commissions with technical and financial assistance from the DEP. The goals and policies enumerated in the act are designed to guide development along the coast in a manner that will avoid unnecessary, adverse effects on the state's coastal resources. Federal, state and municipal decisions, as well as major state plans and planning programs, must conform to the goals and policies. In addition to providing technical and financial assistance to municipalities, the DEP is also mandated to simplify federal and state permit systems affecting regulation of activities within the coastal zone. The DEP may also appeal any municipal decisions which are not substantially consistent with the coastal policies. A \$250,000 appropriation is included in the act to be used for administration and grants to towns.

SA 79-60, SB 598, AN ACT CONCERNING BLISSVILLE DAM, LISBON, CONNECTICUT - effective upon passage, June 22, 1979

Authorizes the DEP commissioner to acquire by condemnation the Lower Blissville Pond Dam in Lisbon and any rights-of-way necessary to maintain, repair, reconstruct or remodel the dam.

SA 79-65, SB 1234, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREAS FOR THE CONNECTICUT RIVER NAVIGATION PROJECT BELOW HARTFORD - effective July 1, 1979

Appropriates \$40,000 to the DEP for a study of disposal areas for material dredged from the Connecticut River by the Army Corps of Engineers.

SA 79-66, HB 5098, AN ACT CONCERNING A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY SOURCES - effective July 1, 1979

Appropriates \$30,000 to the Office of Policy and Management to formulate a state policy concerning the use of hydroelectric energy sources, including recommendations for the restoration and use of hydroelectric energy sources in Connecticut. The report is to be developed in consultation with the DEP, the Power Facility Evaluation Council and the Division of Public Utility Control, and is to be submitted to the General Assembly's Environment Committee by January 1, 1980.

#### Hazardous Materials Management/ Solid Waste Management

PA 79-57, HB 7650, AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER STATION FEES - effective July 1, 1979

Allows municipalities to charge tipping fees at transfer stations, in addition to other types of solid waste facilities.

PA 79-319, SB 133, AN ACT CONCERNING OIL SPILL CONTAINMENT AND REMOVAL WITHIN THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER AND ADJACENT SHORELINE AREA AND THE PROCEDURES OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER GATEWAY COMMISSION - effective July 1, 1979

Section 1 of the bill requires the DEP to provide the necessary equipment to contain and remove oil spills within the lower Connecticut River (below Middletown) and the adjacent shoreline. The operating budget (S.A. 79-23) contains \$200,000 for this equipment. Emergency response personnel training is also required. Sections 2, 3, and 4 amend procedures applicable to the Connecticut River Gateway Commission and participating towns.

PA 79-512, SB 1314, AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER OF THE STORAGE, USE OR TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS, GASES AND CHEMICALS - effective upon passage, June 21, 1979

Expands and clarifies the Department of Public Safety's regulatory authority over flammable or combustible



liquids, liquified petroleum and natural gas, and installation and operation of gas equipment and piping. Also prescribes more stringent penalties for violations of inspection requirements for vehicles transporting certain substances.

PA 79-605, HB 7597, AN ACT CONCERNING CONTAMINATION, POLLUTION OR EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM THE DISPOSAL, DISCHARGE, SPILLAGE, LOSS, SEEPAGE OR FILTRATION OF OIL, PETROLEUM, CHEMICAL LIQUIDS OR SOLID, LIQUID OR GASEOUS PRODUCTS OR HAZARDOUS WASTES - effective upon passage, July 3, 1979

This act was designed to implement Executive Order No. 24 and to give the DEP the authority to carry out the provisions of the Hazardous Waste Management section of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Basically, the act expands the DEP's spill response obligations to include a wider range of hazardous materials, establishes a \$200,000 revolving fund which will be available for use by the DEP to respond to spill incidents, and requires the compilation of an inventory of hazardous waste disposal sites to be submitted to the General Assembly's Environment Committee by January 15, 1981. In addition, section 12 of the act gives the DEP the authority to ban the sale and use of certain "organic solvents" which have caused pollution of sources of drinking water.

SA 79-97, HB 7984, AN ACT CONCERNING A GRANT FOR THE TOWN OF STRATFORD TO ALLEVIATE AN ASBESTOS PROBLEM - effective July 1, 1979  
Appropriates \$50,000 to the DEP to be passed on to the Town of Stratford for alleviation of problems caused by asbestos in landfills.

SA 79-102, SB 744, AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT CONCERNING HYDROELECTRIC DAMS - effective upon passage, July 11, 1979

Authorizes the MDC to contract with the CRRA for resource recovery operations and to construct, repair and maintain hydroelectric dams.

#### Radiation Control

PA 79-487, HB 5096, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES - effective October 1, 1979

Prohibits the construction of a fifth nuclear power facility in Connecticut until the federal government identifies and approves demonstrable technology or means for the disposal of high level nuclear waste.

PA 79-488, HB 5097, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BURIAL OF NUCLEAR RADIOACTIVE WASTE - effective October 1, 1979

Requires legislative approval for burial of nuclear radioactive waste (excluding low level medical radioactive waste and low level radioactive waste from educational research) in Connecticut.

PA 79-527, HB 6816, AN ACT CONCERNING NUCLEAR WASTE TRANSPORTATION - effective October 1, 1979  
Requires the Commissioner of Transportation to notify the Commissioner of Public Safety of any permits issued to transport radioactive material or waste into or through Connecticut. The Public Safety Commissioner shall establish an inspection procedure along scheduled routes to ensure compliance with permit conditions. Also prohibits municipalities from adopting any ordinance restricting shipments of radioactive material or waste approved by the Transportation Commissioner and states that the Transportation Commissioner's authority supersedes any existing municipal ordinance to the contrary.

#### Water Compliance

PA 79-108, HB 6438, AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT OF ALGAE AND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL PROGRAMS - effective October 1, 1979

Provides for reimbursement of expenses incurred by towns and lake authorities for leased equipment used for algae and aquatic weed control programs.

PA 79-225, HB 7916, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SEWAGE AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE - effective October 1, 1979

Requires local water pollution control authorities to consider the feasibility of using sewage as an energy source in planning new or additional sewerage systems.

PA 79-391, HB 7717, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL SEWER AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITIES - effective upon passage, June 1, 1979

Clarifies the intent of the sewer avoidance act passed by the 1978 legislature which changed the name of "sewer authorities" to "water pollution control authorities." PA 79-391 states that the name change was automatic as of October 1, 1978, unless determined otherwise by ordinance of a local legislative body. Also validates acts of sewer authorities since October 1, 1978.

PA 79-526, HB 7032, AN ACT CONCERNING RELOCATION OR REMOVAL OF PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES AS A RESULT OF CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL SEWER OR POLLUTION ABATEMENT FACILITIES - effective upon passage, June 19, 1979

Clarifies the financial responsibility of municipalities when a public service company is ordered to temporarily or permanently readjust, relocate or remove a public service facility due to the construction, rebuilding, expansion or acquisition of sewers or other pollution abatement facilities.

SA 79-74, HB 5475, AN ACT TO STUDY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF JORDAN COVE, WATERFORD - effective July 1, 1979

Requires the DEP to study the environmental problems of Jordan Cove, including pollution, siltation, tidal flow

and erosion and to report the results and recommendations for alleviating the problems to the General Assembly's Environment Committee by January 1, 1981. The DEP's operating budget (SA 79-23) includes \$30,000 to implement this act.

SA 79-84, HB 7673, AN ACT CONCERNING WATER TESTS - effective July 1, 1979

Appropriates \$25,000 to the Health Department to test public water supplies which are suspected to contain potentially harmful carcinogens or mutagens.

#### Miscellaneous

PA 79-84, HB 5797, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ALTERNATE MEMBERS ON MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS - effective October 1, 1979

Allows the appointment of up to 3 alternate members on local conservation commissions.

PA 79-399, SB 1434, AN ACT MODIFYING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE TRI-STATE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION - effective upon passage of similar legislation by New York and New Jersey; except section 5 which is effective upon passage of the act in Connecticut, June 14, 1979

Transfers from the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission to the Office of Policy and Management the authority to decide which federal grant applications represent projects which would have substantial regional impact and should therefore be reviewed by Tri-State. Also states that Tri-State may not encroach upon the power of any government agency; the Commission's functions are advisory only.

PA 79-499, HB 5297, AN ACT EXPANDING THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION PILOT PROGRAM - effective October 1, 1979

Increases the bond authorization for the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program from \$5.05 million to \$7.05 million.

SA 79-62, SB 1403, AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTER - effective July 1, 1979

Appropriates \$2,000 to the DEP to study the economic feasibility of a state equestrian center.

SA 79-77, HB 7166, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT RIVER ASSEMBLY - effective upon passage, June 18, 1979

Authorizes the establishment of the Connecticut River Assembly to be composed of the Governor or her designee and representatives of each town bordering the Connecticut River from Middletown to Massachusetts, the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Mid-State RPA. The Assembly will analyze local, state and federal controls affecting the river and adjacent lands, designate a "conservation zone" and develop land use standards for that zone, recommend acquisition of land or easements within the zone, and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 1, 1981.

## **CEQ Director Named**

Governor Ella Grasso has named Domenic J. Forcella, Jr. of Plainville executive director of the state Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Forcella has served as a member and as chairman of the CEQ and previously held several posts with the Department of Environmental Protection.

The CEQ acts as a watchdog over the state's environmental agencies and activities.

## **Nuclear Power & Health Conference Scheduled**

A conference on Nuclear Power and Health will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 11 and 12, at Connecticut College in New London. It is being co-sponsored by ten Eastern Connecticut health and related agencies and groups and the State Department of Health. Registration will be free. For further information, contact Rosalie Lang at the Health Systems Agency of Eastern Connecticut, 886-1196.

## **Festival Emphasizes Marine Environment**

"Soundfest '79," a two-day festival featuring sailing and research vessels, an environmental fair, and an oyster roast is set for September 29 & 30 in Bridgeport.

The sloop Clearwater will be among the boats docking at Union Square dock in Bridgeport for the event sponsored by the Long Island Sound taskforce of the Oceanic Society. The Stamford-based environmental group has lined up research vessels, including the R/V Onrust from SUNY, working fishing boats, and sailing ships for the festival which is open free to the public.

Ticket sales for a Pete Seeger concert on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 8 p.m. on the University of Bridgeport campus will benefit the marine environmental work of LIST. For festival information, or to reserve Pete Seeger concert tickets, call LIST at (203) 327-9786.



# Trailside Botanizing

by G. Winston Carter



## Butter - And - Eggs

*Linaria vulgaris*

This interesting little plant is a member of the snapdragon or figwort family. It is related to such plants as common mullein, foxglove, and monkey flower.

The flowers of Butter-and-eggs appear from late June through October and the plant is widespread. It usually grows in sites that are not too desirable for other plants. It is a common roadside plant which has been introduced from Europe.

The generic name *Linaria* originated because of the similarity of its leaves to those of flax. Its yellow mouth and orange palate appear to resemble the mouth of a toad, hence it is sometimes called Toadflax. Its more common name, Butter-and-eggs, stems from the flower's two shades of yellow that resemble butter and egg yolk.

A very intriguing aspect of this plant is its adaptations for ensuring that its pollen is obtained by the right kind of insect. Its flower is two-lipped and constructed so that only certain insects, such as bumblebees, honey bees, and some butterflies which are heavy enough to open the flower, can enter for the nectar and become covered by pollen in the process. "Robber insects" such as the light-weight ants and beetles, which have smooth skin and thus make poor pollenators, are excluded automatically. Occasionally a moth is able to slip its tongue between the lips of the flower and escape with nectar without picking up any pollen. Nectar is contained in the thin drooping spurs. The grooved orange palate serves as a nectar guide.

At one time, this plant was considered a valuable source for a skin lotion by country people, while its juices mixed with milk were used as a fly poison.

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## DEP citizens' bulletin

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